



**National Center for Environmental Health**  
**Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services**

**FEMA/CDC Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC)  
for Communities**



**What is the IEMC**

The Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) is a 4½-day exercise-based training activity that places public officials and emergency personnel in a realistic crisis situation within a structured learning environment. The course has been sponsored and conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since 1982. In 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) incorporated a bioterrorism component into the IEMC. In 2005, CDC's Coordinating Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response allocated funding to the National

Center for Environmental Health to add environmental public health elements to the course. Six FEMA/CDC IEMCs for Communities are currently being scheduled as part of a fully integrated partnership between CDC and FEMA.

**Overall IEMC Goal**

The course builds the awareness and skills needed to develop and implement policies, plans, and procedures to protect life and property by applying sound emergency management principles in all phases of emergency management.

**Goals of FEMA/CDC IEMC for Communities**

The course will increase the level of overall preparedness of participants by helping them understand the roles of environmental public health and other disciplines in an integrated emergency response framework.



Additionally, the course will provide chemical, radiological, and natural hazard training modules and interactive exercises for state and local communities.

**Who Should Attend**

State, local, and tribal officials from various disciplines; public health practitioners; hospital staff and other health care providers; elected/appointed officials; management personnel; and media representatives.



**FACT SHEET**

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## Course Methodology

A combination of classroom lectures and discussions, small-group planning sessions, and practical exercises will increase participants' awareness and knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of community response partners. For the emergency exercises, each participant is assigned a role similar to his or her real-life position. During the exercises, course participants face a variety of emergency or disaster situations. The exercises are planned using the actual hazards from participants' communities and build on

concepts discussed in the course. Decisions made by participants during the exercise are used in the exercise to simulate reality-based decision making and consequence management.

## Expected Outcomes and Benefits

Upon completing this training and exercise program, course participants will be able to —

- demonstrate increased knowledge of the public health requirements needed to respond successfully to a chemical, radiological, or natural hazard emergency or act of terrorism;
- demonstrate knowledge of how to coordinate and maximize resources and expertise from multiple disciplines using an integrated emergency response model;
- successfully integrate public health activities into a simulated emergency response by participating in an interactive exercise with their peers and test new methods for response in a controlled setting before an actual emergency deployment;
- identify gaps and needs in their jurisdictional response plans and make corrective action plans to address gaps and needs after the course (the exercises used during the course are based on actual locations and vulnerabilities from participants' communities);

Course objectives and concepts will be practiced through the exercise portion of the program.

## Course Personnel

Program facilitators, lecturers, and instructors include federal, state, and local government officials; public health professionals; academicians; active emergency-response personnel; and private consultants. Facilitators offer firsthand experience in emergencies and other events.

## Additional Course Information

For more information regarding the FEMA/CDC IEMC for Communities, please visit the FEMA IEMC Web site at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IEMC> or contact Cyndi Rilling at (770) 488-7216 or [CSW3@cdc.gov](mailto:CSW3@cdc.gov).

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